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## CONTENTS

Welcome	4
Clerks Corner	8
A Word from Councillor Tom Jones	10
Sussex Search and Rescue	14
Ditchling History Project	16
'It was roses, roses all the way'	17
Turner-Dumbrell Foundation	18
A message from our MP	19
Ditchling Village Orchard	20
The Footpaths Conservation Society	21
Ditchling Museum of Art & Craft	22
The Ditchling Society	23
Defibrillator Training Sessions	25
Ditchling Charity Ball	26
Probus Club	27
1st Ditchling Scout Group	29
Sports Day 2019	30
Archers Sure-Fire Summer Success	31



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# HELLO AGAIN AND WELCOME

## to our August edition of the Ditchling magazine.



### Local Elections

As you well know we have just had our local elections in the village. This year it was to elect both Ditchling Parish Councillors and a Lewes District councillor although only the District Council

nominations appeared on your ballot form.

The reason for this is that the parish council has a requirement for eleven councillors. If we had twelve or more names proposed, we would need a local parish election to decide who would be the eleven councillors. Like many years in the past we did not have the necessary numbers to force such an election, so the councillors who did stand, were said to have been elected “unopposed”.

We were unfortunate on this occasion to have two resignations from our sitting councillors. These were Peggy Guggenheim and Catherine Robinson, so may I take this opportunity to thank them both for the hard work and devotion they have shown to both the council and the parish during their time in office. As a result of these elections, Ditchling Parish Council have now exercised what is known as “The General Power of Competence (GPC)”, which gives us greater flexibility to act. In order to adopt the GPC, the Council must meet the following criteria:

**A minimum of two-thirds of vacancies on the council filled at the last ordinary elections. This includes councillors who stood for uncontested elections, but not co-opted councillors.**

**A qualified clerk who holds the national qualification and has completed relevant training i.e. Certificate in Local Council Management (CILCA).**

Eligibility lasts until the annual meeting of the council immediately after the next ordinary elections in May 2023, and can be renewed at that meeting provided the conditions are still met.

### Planning Authorities

It may not be obvious but Ditchling being a parish that is mainly within the South Downs National Park comes under both Lewes District and the National Park’s planning departments, though many of the planning decisions for smaller applications are devolved to Lewes District. There is therefore a complex interweaving of various layers of local government that keep the parish running smoothly.



The South Downs National Park, plays such a large part in the planning process within our parish. In 2009 after a 79-year campaign, the South Downs became the 10th National Park in England, and with the demands for new housing and large-scale development in the South East of England, the National Park authority has needed to be a strong guardian of the South Downs.

As I have said, much of Ditchling parish lies within the South Downs National Park, the boundary of which is indicated by a new sign erected on the B2112 on Ditchling Common.

The southern boundary of the parish extends south almost to the gate houses on Ditchling Road at the top end of Stanmer Park.



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Further south the park extends to the Brighton bypass, and even incorporated Hollingbury camp and Golf Course. 40% of Brighton & Hove is within the National Park.

The Park Authority is made up of a team of staff and Members, supported by the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service. The South Downs National Park Authority is governed by a board of twenty-seven members. These are made up of seven national members who are appointed by the Secretary of State through an open recruitment process to "represent the national interest".

There are six parish members, two each from East Sussex, West Sussex and Hampshire, who are nominated by the Parish/Town Councils or Parish Meetings within the National Park. There are also fourteen local authority members. One is appointed by each of the fifteen local authorities covering the National Park area. (Adur and Worthing have opted to share a place).

As a result, there are no directly elected members to the park authority. The authority also has a staff team of one hundred and ten full time employees, and a further twelve posts funded externally. In 2017/18, the Park Authority revenue budget was £11.570 million, which was funded by £10.135m from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), a National Park Grant of £1.371million, and other grants and income.

**Don McBeth**

*Chair Ditchling Parish Council*

## Art in Ditchling

In last November's edition of the magazine I mentioned the Crucifix on top of "The Spoil Bank" on Ditchling Common, created in 1919 by Eric Gill to commemorate the fallen of the First World War. It represented the beginning of a major flourishing of art in the village, and as you may know Ditchling Museum is now dedicated to its Arts and Craft movement.

That movement was started by Eric Gill, Hillary Pepler and Desmond Chute in 1921, with the creation of The Guild of St Joseph and St Dominic.

Hopkins Crank was the home of Eric Gill and his family, and I am reminded of a painting by David Jones the renowned First World War poet and artist. Jones lived with Gill, in the commune on the common at Hopkins Crank, and also at Woodbarton Cottage.



The painting called "An enclosed garden" can be found in the Tate Gallery in London, and pictures Jones with Gills daughter Petra, at the time of their engagement in 1924.

The Tate Gallery describes the painting as follows "After he was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1921, Jones went to live with the artist Eric Gill and his family. The two figures in this picture represent Jones, and Gill's daughter Petra. The picture was painted to mark their engagement in June 1924, when Petra was not quite eighteen. The title alludes to the Song of Solomon, chapter 4, v.12 'A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed'.

An enclosed garden is also frequently used as a symbol for the virginity of the Virgin Mary. The geese, sacred to the classical goddess Juno and associated with young girls, flee from the embracing couple, alarmed by their passion. The doll on the ground may symbolise lost childhood".

David Jones and Petra Gill never married, but the paths, wall and buildings shown in the painting are still there.



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# CLERKS CORNER



**This issue I thought that it might be useful to give a bit of background about planning, which seems to be an area that is always of interest to residents.**



## ***So, what part does your Parish Council play in the planning system?***

The Parish Council are consultees on planning applications received in the Parish and decide at full council meetings or planning committee meetings (which are all held in public) about what recommendations or comments they wish to submit to the Planning Authority. It is worth noting that the Planning Authority, being either Lewes District Council or the South Downs National Park do not have to agree with the Parish Council comments, but they must consider the parish view before deciding to grant or refuse permission.



The Planning Authority will either delegate the application to officers for determination or take the application to the full Planning Committee. Central to the decision-making process are material considerations, issues that are in law, material or relevant to a planning application. This might include, a local plan or neighbourhood plan, a site's planning history, accessibility, traffic, roads, parking or archaeology. Personal feelings about applications or the applicant are not relevant – it is the wider public interest in respect of the planning application that is important.

It is important that comments made to the Planning Authority should fit with statutory local development plans and the policies that

are contained within these plans. For example, using policies within the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan to support or object to an application.

## **Parish Council Committee update**

At the May Parish Council meeting the Council looked to review their Committees. This led to the creation of a Planning Committee which means that rather than planning applications being discussed at a full council meeting, a separate committee has been formed to look at the applications and agree any comments or recommendations. The Committee has its own terms of reference, approved by the full council; and if required would recommend that an application should be discussed by the full council should it be a significant or controversial application. The Planning Committee will meet at 6.30pm prior to the Parish Council meetings that are held at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak at the start of the meeting on any item on the agenda.

In addition to the Finance Committee and the Grounds & Burial Ground Committee a Car Park Working party was formed. This working party has already met on several occasions to progress the project and currently are working on the funding and project management options.

Agenda's and minutes of all Parish Council meetings are published on the Ditchling Parish Council website to view.

Planning applications and related documents can be viewed via Lewes District Council website - [www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk) or the South Downs National Park website <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/>



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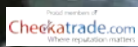
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# A Word from Councillor Tom Jones



**With so much discussion currently going the rounds with regard to housing within the Lewes District both within the South Downs National Park and in Lewes District I thought it might help if I were to give some degree of context surrounding this subject. Should you have any questions or queries concerning the following please do not hesitate to contact me.**

## PLANNING – Housing Policy Context

### ***“MPs urge planning reform to boost housing output***

*The Public Accounts Committee has issued a report which says the Government must tackle “inherent problems at the heart of the planning system” in order to achieve its target of building 300,000 homes per year.”*

That is the overall national target but how is that reflected when calculating the number of housing for Lewes District and indeed more to the point for many of us what is the amount of housing required for Ditchling and who is the Planning Authority for Ditchling?

Initially both Lewes District Council (LDC) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), working in Partnership produced the Lewes Local plan Part 1 – Joint Core Strategy which was adopted by LDC in May 2016 and by SDNPA in June 2016 with Spatial Policies 1 and 2 of this Local Plan Part 1 setting the level and distribution of housing growth to be delivered over the Plan period, 2010 to 2030.

Taking all figures as minimums, Spatial Policy 1 identifies a housing requirement of 6,900 additional dwellings (345 dwellings per annum), however in its totality Spatial Policy

2 adds up to 6,926 net dwellings. In addition, Spatial Policy 2 show a Minimum planned housing growth of 15 dwellings in Ditchling (within the SDNP). The emphasize here is on the word Minimum.

During this early transition of the Lewes Local plan Part 1 both the LDC and SDNPA, individually and respectively, commenced work on their own Lewes Local Plan Part 2 and the Southdowns Local Plan. As the Lewes Local Plan Part 2 applies only to the area of the district outside the SDNP the housing requirement was separated between the relevant local planning authority areas.

In separating the 6,926 housing figure the proportion of housing to be delivered outside the SDNP for Lewes District is 5,494 net additional dwellings (275 dwellings per annum), and 1,432 net dwellings for the SDNP as illustrated below:

Separated Housing Number Table Plan	Housing Requirement
Lewes Local Plan Part 1	6,926
Lewes Local Plan Part 1 (outside the SDNP)	5,494
SDNP Local Plan	1,432

Research by MPs found that although councils are required to produce Local Plans determining which land will be used for homes and how development can be brought forward, two fifths are out of date and 14% have no plan at all. At going to print the Lewes Local Plan Part 2 and the Southdowns Local Plan are very close to completion and publication with great weight being given to both documents.

Contact Councillor Tom Jones.  
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# Sussex Search and Rescue

**The Parish Council were recently approached by Sussex Search and Rescue who requested if they could use Ditchling Recreation Ground to support their training exercise which is being held on Thursday, 24th October.**



The Council have authorised this and you will see posters nearer the time to alert members of the public; but the exercise involves approximately 35 people, plus a control vehicle, which will be using the recreation ground car park.

We thought it might be of interest to residents to know a little more about this important service which is used by Sussex Police and is an organisation run purely by volunteers.

Sussex Search & Rescue - What we do  
Sussex Search & Rescue (SusSAR) is the primary volunteer resource used by Sussex Police to search for, and rescue, vulnerable missing people. We are on call 24 hours every day throughout the year and are based across the whole of Sussex.

As a 100% volunteer organisation our members give their time free of charge and expect nothing in return but satisfaction from a job well done. We exist to serve the community of Sussex through the goodwill of our members and charitable donations.

We can be called out by Sussex Police or by Search & Rescue Teams in other counties requesting our assistance at any time.

## **Where might people see us?**

As a result of our charity status and no funding, we have a variety of means for fundraising. This includes collections, providing marshals for events community events, representing the unit at public emergency services, to name but a few.

## **How would we describe ourselves?**

We are the men and women that dedicate our time to help the people of Sussex that need us the most when their loved ones go missing. We are qualified to high standards and are a vital volunteer resource to Sussex Police.

## **How do we raise funds?**

As we are self-funded, fundraising is an integral part of what we have to do in order to continue as a unit. We often offer support for events, mainly in the form of marshalling at large sporting or community events. A

major activity we partake in for raising funds is 'bucket shakes' outside supermarkets, shops or in high-streets etc.

## **What does it mean to be a member of SusSAR?**

Membership of SusSAR involves quite a considerable commitment in terms of time, effort and money.

**Time** – we hold two training evenings a month (2nd & 4th Thursday), at various locations across Sussex. Attendance at callouts is expected wherever possible, and these can occur during the day or at night. Members are also asked to attend fundraising events, in order to help keep the team operational.

**Effort** – joining the team involves an initial 4-6 month probationary period, followed by attendance (& successful completion) of a weekend training course in search skills. Further ongoing training is then available and expected.

**Money** – being volunteers, all members provide their own kit, transport & fuel costs.

## **How can people join?**

We currently don't have any vacancies for operational membership. However, we would be delighted to hear from you should you be looking to help with fundraising for us. Please email [fundraising@sussar.org](mailto:fundraising@sussar.org) to discuss how you can help us raise funds and join our team in a non-operational role, soon.

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# Kew's wild botanic garden

Wakehurst, Kew's wild botanic garden in Sussex, is home to over 500 acres of ornamental gardens, woodlands and a nature reserve. Beautiful whatever the season, there is something for everyone whether you're a keen gardener, adventurer or wildlife lover.

Run and managed by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Wakehurst prides itself on being home to not only picture-perfect gardens and an Elizabethan Mansion, but also hundreds of acres of diverse landscape featuring rare and wonderful plants from around the world.

Home to the Millennium Seed Bank, step inside to see Kew scientists at work as they strive to conserve seeds from around the globe, with the mission to conserve 25% of the world's plant species by 2020.

There's also plenty for families throughout the gardens, with natural play spaces such as Tree Trunk Trek in Coates Wood. Or for those wanting to get their hands dirty, head to the Children's Heritage Garden for the potting shed and mud garden.

Wakehurst is open daily 10am – 6pm.  
Adults £13.95, children 16 and under free.

National Trust members can enjoy free garden entry, but car parking charges apply.



## Upcoming events

### Summer holidays, 29 July – 30 August

Explore Wakehurst's gardens and woodlands through a changing programme of fun and educational activities over the summer.

### A Midsummer Night's Dream, 31 August & 1 September

Chapterhouse Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's best-loved romantic comedy – A Midsummer Night's Dream. An evening of unmissable summer theatre.

### Wakehurst Workshops, various dates

A range of workshops from creative writing, charcoal making and willow weaving, to wellbeing days, wreath making and bat walks.

# Wakehurst

To find out more about Wakehurst and upcoming events visit [kew.org/wakehurst](https://www.kew.org/wakehurst)

Royal Botanic Gardens  
**Kew**





**Ditchling History Project** is your local history society. We research all aspects of the parish's history: its families; its buildings; its industries; its arts & crafts; its church & chapels; its clubs and societies. We maintain an extensive and growing database which we aim to make available online. We are 'project' based because we never cease investigating the history of this amazing parish. Historical records, tythe maps, census returns, trade directories, house deeds and word of mouth are some of our many sources. We are always ready to learn from those who know something of Ditchling's history both past and recent. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Our website is [www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org](http://www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org)

### Project News

After a year in which we devoted much of our research to the part Ditchling and its residents played in international events we are now turning to a more parochial, domestic, topic. Our next project is to record the history of our village shops, trades, inns, manufacturers and other commercial businesses. We are keen to learn about what exists in the village today just as much as what there was in the past. We shall be relying on personal memories, diaries and other archival material to obtain historical information. But today, 'commercial businesses' covers an exceptionally diverse range of activities some of which are not so visible and operated within homes, such as B & Bs, or from homes, such as online services. We intend to produce a publication, create information boards for display in the premises concerned and perhaps mount a trail or exhibition. Our findings will show the amazing change in local services and businesses over the centuries. Just as importantly they will provide a 2019 baseline of information for future historians.

If you own or manage a Ditchling business we would love you to tell us about it. We have produced a questionnaire which we would like you to complete. If we haven't already seen it may be because we don't know about your business. So please access it via our website. [www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org](http://www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org) (NB We are aware of our legal responsibilities under the Data Protection Act with regard to any information you provide.) We hope to follow it up with a meeting.



### Do you know?

#### Then

Whether transport by foot, horse or motor car the topic of 'traffic' seems to have been an enduring preoccupation for Ditchling residents.

A story passed down in Ditchling's folklore is of an old lady at the turn of the 18th/19th centuries who, when preparing for her first journey to London, was asked what sort of place she expected to find. She replied: "Well, I can't exactly tell, but I suppose it must be something like the busy end of Ditchling Street" And, writing in 'Ditchling in our own Times' published in 1937, Bridget Johnston said: "Apart from a few new shops higher up the hill, the High Street must be very much the same as it has been for the last few hundred years. What difference there is lies less in the street itself than in the greatly increased



traffic, which now requires the services of a policeman at the cross-roads. It is, by modern standards, a dangerous cross roads and of late years there have been a number of accidents”!

### **Now**

Today there is no policeman controlling traffic at that ‘dangerous crossroads’. Instead we have ‘the services’ of a mini-roundabout to regulate the traffic! And what about the increase in traffic since 1937? A census conducted over a twelve-hour (07.00hrs– 19.00hrs) period in 2012 produced the following convergent

vehicle flows on the approaches into the crossroads.

B2112 North to South = 3169

B2116 West to East = 1510

B2112 South to North = 3591

B 2116 East to West = 2026

I think we can safely say that the traffic has increased since then. What would Bridget Johnston be saying now? Perhaps the only message we can take out of this is that everything we experience in life is relative.

## **‘It was roses, roses all the way’**

### **Ditchling Horticultural Society Summer Show**

**After the disappointing weather of the last few weeks, the sun shone brightly for the Ditchling Summer Show on Saturday.**

The Village Hall was filled with the scent of roses and other flowers as members of the Horticultural Society set up their displays. The judges, Mrs Sheila Rawlings and Mr David Muller, praised the quality of the exhibits after a difficult growing season, and were particularly impressed with the large number of children’s entries.

First prize in the children’s vegetable class went to Lottie Standen for her enormous and perfect garlic. The judge commented that they beat the adults’ exhibits!

Children from St Margaret’s School as well as from the Beavers and Cubs had grown radishes and other vegetables and had made colourful egg-box caterpillars which delighted everyone.

As usual at the Ditchling shows, the refreshments were a big attraction, with a choice of cream teas or home-made cake. While the visitors enjoyed their tea, The Society’s Chairman Pam Roy-Jones outlined the events of the year so far, and then presented the trophies. Mrs Annie Sandercock, who regularly shows both flowers and vegetables, won no fewer than three of the seven: the Nat Catchpole Trophy for the best flowering plant in a pot; the Jeffery Challenge cup for the best rose in the show; and the Committee Challenge Cup for the best patio pot. Virginia Hinze won the Copper Kettle

for the best exhibit of fruit, and Laura van Stiphout took the Macauley Challenge Cup with her sweet peas. The Reg Strube Cup, for the highest number of points in the Floral Art Classes, was won by Joyce Laing, and Dick Morley once again took the Edie Catchpole Trophy, for the highest number of points across all the fruit and vegetable classes.

The afternoon ended in the traditional way with the drawing of ‘Muriel’s Raffle’. It is known by this name after Muriel Brayne, an active member of the Society and who ran the raffle for many years and who is still a welcome visitor at every show.

The next Ditchling Horticultural Show will be the last one of this year, and will be on Sunday 8 September at 2pm in the Village Hall.



# Turner-Dumbrell Foundation

**Many Ditchling residents will be familiar with the land around Lodge Hill and the workshops as you head north out of the village, but fewer know how they are linked and how they contribute to the vitality of our local organisations.**



people engaged in art or craft work or who are in business for the first time.

The foundation invites applications for grants every March and the trustees decide on the outcome at their annual general meeting in the summer.

This year the foundation agreed to make grants totalling £16,500 to the following:

- Beacon Parish for upkeep and maintenance of St Margaret's churchyard;
- Ditchling Parish Council for outside table tennis equipment as part of the scheme to enhance facilities at the Recreation Ground;
- Ditchling Street & Westmeston Sports for refurbishment of its cups;
- FPTA of Ditchling Primary School towards the cost of canopies for outdoor learning spaces;
- Ditchling Lawn Tennis Club towards court resurfacing costs;
- The Monday Group for annual fixed costs of footpath maintenance
- Ditchling Unitarian & Free Christian Church towards refurbishment of the Old Meeting House;
- Oldland Mill for lightning protection;
- Hassocks Youth Hangout Family Trail project.

Both the workshops and the land where Lodge Hill is situated, as well as the Community Orchard in Boddingtons Lane, are owned by a charitable trust, the Turner-Dumbrell Foundation. Income from the grazing and the workshops is used to make grants to local organisations that meet the Foundation's charitable purpose.

In the past eight years alone, the charity has awarded grants totalling just shy of £130,000 to local causes, and its history of giving dates back to its formation in 1980s.

The foundation was founded in 1983 by Dr Richard Turner who was left North End Farm, including Lodge Hill and adjoining land, by Mary Dumbrell. Her wish was that it should be used for the public benefit.

Lodge Hill is maintained as private grazing land with permission to the general public to walk and exercise on 364 days of the year. This is in accordance with Dr Turner's belief that exercise in a green environment contributes to the prevention of heart disease.

The workshops were converted from redundant farm buildings of North End Farm with the purpose of providing space for local

The local community also benefits from the use of Lodge Hill for events, such as the Ditchling Morris marking Midsummer Eve on June 21 (pictured), but please remember that you need to ask the foundation for permission so we can let the farmer know in advance.

If you would like to find out more about the Turner-Dumbrell Foundation there is more information on the website:

[www.turner-dumbrell.org](http://www.turner-dumbrell.org)

or you can contact the secretary by email at: [secretary@turner-dumbrell.org](mailto:secretary@turner-dumbrell.org)

# A message from our MP

**Visiting local schools across Lewes, it is clear climate change is the topic students most want to talk about. Climate change is a challenge we face not just as a country but globally.**



The risks of severe flooding, of heatwaves, the spread of diseases, the loss of precious wildlife and coral reefs, of poor air quality here in the UK and those ever-rising sea levels across the world is incredibly worrying.

The UK is playing a leading role in reducing carbon emissions. Since 1990, the UK has cut emissions by more than 40 per cent while growing the economy by more than two thirds, the best performance on a per person basis than any other G7 nation. Britain is firmly on track to meet the 2050 target to reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases by 80 per cent.

Today nearly 50% of our electricity is generated by renewables when nine years ago it was only 5%. The UK's CO2 emissions fell 2 % last year to 364 million tonnes, the lowest since 1888. That said globally emissions are increasing as China the US and India have seen theirs rise and we are doing all we can to work with them, so they have reduction programmes in place.

Locally we now have the Rampion offshore windfarm which is based in Newhaven which is now producing electricity for over 350,000 homes and as your local MP I am working with local groups such as Ovesco to increase the supply of electricity from renewable sources and I am sponsoring a bill in Parliament to prevent fracking in the UK so that we do not move towards increasing energy sources which will increase CO2 emissions.

We can all do our bit to reduce our carbon footprint from walking to school, instead of taking the car, to reducing the amount of crude oil-based products made from plastics. There is lots happening locally with the groups such as Plastic Free Lewes and Refill Seaford all doing their bit.

That said, I do recognise that more needs to be done, which is why Ministers have asked the Committee on Climate Change for advice on a net zero emissions target. As politicians we need to make it as easy as possible for people to make the right choices and I hope we can offer incentives to change behaviour rather than penalties for not doing so. Our young people want us to act now and we must listen.



# Ditchling Village Orchard

**In 2013 The Turner Dumbrell Foundation offered its land in Boddingtons Lane for the creation of a Ditchling Village Orchard.**

The Orchard Group was formed and planting began in 2014 with the help of village groups, societies and individuals who contributed to trees and new hedging. We now have 13 trees, nearly all are traditional Sussex varieties. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a moment of quiet contemplation in this tranquil setting.

The Orchard Group aims to offer opportunities for local people, children and young people. From planting and caring for the trees, nurturing the environment, to pruning, cooking and juicing the fruits, there is much to learn about. We are trying to create a biodiverse habitat in which wildlife can thrive and provide natural ways for our orchard to defend itself against pests and diseases.

We run Ditchling's Apple Day and various activities. These have included – poetry and bug hotel design workshops in the school, scything, bug hotel construction, bat walk, moth 'breakfast' (no we didn't eat them!) visits from Beavers and Cubs.

Volunteer opportunities are plenty and we are very grateful to those who come to our monthly maintenance mornings (last Sunday in the month 11.15am April to October), and to those who fill our water butt, strim paths, water trees and help with Apple Day. Age range is impressive – from 2 to 92 years.

We appreciate the different skills people bring both in practical form and/or by encouraging us in what we are doing and making suggestions.

Ditchling Apple Day takes place this year on Sunday, 6th October. 11am – 4pm. Bring your apples to be juiced and orchard related cakes and bakes for us to sell. Train for the annual Welly Wanging competition and be prepared to enjoy the many activities and food and drink on offer – see posters around the village soon.

We need loads of help so if you have ideas or can offer an hour or so let us know. It's a great way to be involved with village life. The Ditchling Village Orchard is managed by voluntary group HKD Transition.

For more orchard news and to learn about HKD Transition, see our website at [www.hkdtransition.org.uk](http://www.hkdtransition.org.uk). Contact us via email at: [ditchlingorchard@hkdtransition.org.uk](mailto:ditchlingorchard@hkdtransition.org.uk)

We are grateful to the Turner Dumbrell Foundation for making their land available for the Ditchling Village Orchard and supporting many of our activities.

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# The Footpaths Conservation Society

**The Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Footpath Conservation Society is continuing with its work in 2019 while seeking a new secretary.**

## New path

The most important work of the society at the moment is the project to create a new footpath alongside the B2116 which will connect the Streat bostal with Westmeston 11 which runs from Old Middleton in Westmeston to Ditchling Common. We have been pressurising East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for this new stretch since 2012, when it was first agreed in principle.

## Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires ESCC to review its rights of way improvement plan every 10 years after its first publication 2007. The society is now asking both ESCC and WSCC where the 2017 reviews are. We suspect this statutory requirement has been quietly forgotten!

## Footpaths on highways verges

Discussions with ESCC before the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan (see above) produced several initiatives by local walkers, some of which have produced valuable outcomes. The B2116 – a high-speed east-west route, has several wide pieces of verge. With the society's support and work of The Monday Group, a valuable path has been established in St. John Without and another from Westmeston Parish Hall to Nye Lane, Ditchling. This has been achieved and funded by The Westmeston Jubilee Pathway Trust. The trust now hopes to open a pathway on highway verge at the southern end of Spatham Lane and the footpath society will contribute where it can, including financially.



## Subscriptions

Subscriptions for this year are now due. It is only through having a thriving footpath society that we can keep paths open and in good condition.

## Edwina Rowling

Membership secretary

[Edwina.rowling@gmail.com](mailto:Edwina.rowling@gmail.com)

Picture credit: **Ann Bacon**

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# Ditchling Museum of Art & Craft

**This summer, Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft presents a major new exhibition on the work of craftswomen who turned their craft into successful businesses between the two World Wars.**

Women's Work features over 100 pieces made by textile artists, weavers, ceramicists and silversmiths, many of whom were informed by their experiences traveling during the First World War. Often overshadowed by their male counterparts, these pioneering women achieved success by looking to past techniques to create contemporary designs, which went on to inform future generations of craftspeople. Women's Work draws on the museum's own and other specialist collections to demonstrate the importance of women in the crafts revival in the early part of the 20th Century.

Many of the craftswomen featured in the museum's exhibition are lesser-known figures of the arts and crafts movement, yet their impact was hugely significant. Potters Denise Wren and Katharine Pleydell-Bouverie, as well as weavers Alice Hindson and Elizabeth Peacock all contributed significantly to the narrative of the movement, yet do not have the status or recognition of their male counterparts.

To respond to this, the museum is running Wikipedia edit-a-thons to improve coverage of these forgotten craftswomen on the world's largest encyclopaedia.

Participants are invited to come along and get free training in Wikipedia editing and help put information about 20th century craftswomen into the public domain. The museum aims to create new entries for craftswomen who are

not represented on the site as well as building on pages that already exist but are incomplete. The next edit-a-thon takes place on Sat 12 Oct.

Throughout the exhibition, which runs until 13 October, visitors will also be invited to contribute the names of forgotten craftswomen to a Roll of Honour in the museum's gallery.

Alongside Women's Work, the museum is presenting The Weaving Residency in association with Cockpit Arts. The exhibition showcases the work of weaver Alice Timmis, who specialises in Jacquard woven fabrics, hand-woven bespoke cloth and embroideries. Alice will be working on a large George Maxwell loom, part of the museum's permanent collection. The marriage of the historic loom and Alice's contemporary style celebrates the resurgence of interest in this traditional craft. Visitors are invited to come along to see the maker at work and learn about slow fashion and ethical production.

Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft Lodge Hill Lane Ditchling BN6 8SP - Tel: **01273 844744**  
[www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk](http://www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk)



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# The Ditchling Society

**The Ditchling Society is an independent organisation that seeks to preserve what is best in our village and surroundings while lobbying for facilities and resources that will sustain our community in the future.**

We know that some things, once lost, can never be regained. At the same time, change is inevitable and we need to encourage the ethical and environmentally sensitive management of change for future generations.

So who are 'we'? Well, The Ditchling Society has a wide membership throughout the community and is run by a steering group whose role is to select and be involved in projects and campaigns where we can conserve and enhance life for our community.

The Ditchling Society contributed extensively to the development of our neighbourhood plan, which received overwhelming support from the community. Protection of our village is high on our priorities whether from development threats, increase in traffic or policy change. This is a special place to live but it is under such immense pressure, especially from large housing developments to the west and north of us, that we need to be particularly vigilant. So as part of our commitment to supporting the aims and policies of the plan, we objectively monitor planning applications that may significantly impact the parish.

But it would be very dull were we only to defend our patch! The Ditchling Society plays a proactive role in many initiatives.

We are partners in The Living Coast, the UNESCO Biosphere which encompasses the South Downs from the Ouse to the Adur, recognising in particular the unique qualities of the chalk hills and aquifers. The Living Coast promotes the understanding and enjoyment of the landscape and natural life, particularly for young people, and runs many different events and activities. The Ditchling Society also has links to other environmental

organisations such as Friends of the South Downs and Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

We work to reduce litter in our village and on surrounding roads, and organise – with invaluable help from volunteers – the Great British Spring Clean each year.

You may have seen our Society at the Village Fair last year advertising the project to bring back the swifts. Nesting boxes and a call system were put in the Church tower and we hope to see some of these remarkable birds returning to the site this Spring to nest for the first time.

Communications are key to the sustainability of our Parish, not only for residents but for the future viability of the very many small businesses here. This is an area where we have lobbied hard for improved broadband, and continue to fight for better connections to those in poorly served areas.

Every year we hold a Summer Meeting where members and guests can listen to a fascinating talk with glass of wine in hand. To date speakers have included the South Downs National Park, CPRE, the Ditchling Commoners and the Sussex Wildlife Trust, organisations which are involved in some way with our Parish but about whom we perhaps know very little. The event is open to all.

What drives us is a passion for our beautiful parish, and a desire to ensure that its future is protected. If you would like to find out more, support our work, join the Society or become more involved, please do get in touch either by email: [info@ditchlingsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@ditchlingsociety.org.uk) or by phoning Shirley Crowther on **01273 841244**.

**[www.ditchlingsociety.org.uk](http://www.ditchlingsociety.org.uk)**



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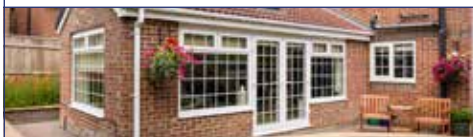


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# Defibrillator Training Sessions

**The recent defibrillator training sessions organised by Cllr Victoria Ingham in the Village Hall on the 30th May and 22nd June were well attended by local residents.**



Myself and Derek the Deputy Clerk also attended on the Saturday session in June and found it a really informative and interactive talk. The excellent trainers from Forever First Aid showed us how to perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), which was a great refresher for myself as I have not completed a first aid course for some time. It also made us understand the importance of CPR in relation to the use of the defibrillator.

Defibrillators come in all different models and it was also useful to see all the styles and how they differ and made us feel much more confident in having to use one if the occasion should ever arise, as personally I found them quite intimidating when they start speaking to you and telling you what to do!

There are a huge number of statistics that show the risk SCA (sudden cardiac arrest) and why defibrillators are so important and should be available in public buildings, leisure centres, workplaces, schools and community areas across the UK, to name a few.

- 270 children die in the UK every year after suffering a Sudden Cardiac Arrest at school
- Based on European data, it is estimated that there is approximately 60,000 Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests occur every year in the UK

- In England alone, the Ambulance Service attempts resuscitation in around 30,000 OHCA cases, annually
- Approximately 80% of Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests occur at Home; 20% will occur in public places
- Without immediate treatment, 90-95% of Sudden Cardiac Arrest victims will die
- If a defibrillator is used and effective CPR is performed within 3-5 minutes of cardiac arrest, their chance of survival increases from 6% to 74%
- Only 22% of people in the UK would be confident in performing CPR on a stranger

If you are interested in attending a first aid course, Forever First Aid hold First Aid Courses in the village quite often and please do get in touch with them.

**Sarah Mamoany**

Clerk to Ditchling Parish Council



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# Ditchling Charity Ball

**I always tell people that the first thing I book is the sunshine, even before arranging the caterers or the marquee!**

Fortunately, the sun has shone at every ball and this year was no exception. Following the torrential rain and winds the night before, the sun came out just before the guests arrived and we were able to enjoy our champagne and canapés outside.

This was our largest event so far with 400 guests and a change of venue to the Pavilion and Recreation Ground, which actually worked incredibly well; our thanks to the Parish Council for making the grounds available. Some would argue it's not as pretty as the village green, but you still have an amazing view of the Downs and there is the added bonus of the extra space, and a flat football pitch!

This year, for the first time, we decided to serve cocktails and they went down exceptionally well; served by our award-winning mixologists from Brighton. Ditchling Gin was also launched at our event and proved very popular. (Look out for it at our local Budgens and pubs!)

The dance floor was packed all night with everyone dancing to the fabulous Soul Messengers and the casino was extremely busy.

We are really grateful to everyone who attended the ball this year and to all the kind people who so generously donated a prize for our auction or prize draw; we have so many incredibly talented people living in our village! We are also very fortunate to have lots of amazing local artists and we had a wonderful array of art on display. This year we received



more donations than ever before and we have been blown away by the huge generosity of the local community. This was largely due to the brilliant Hannah Loram, who worked tirelessly contacting people for donations and also helped rally the troops when we needed people to ferry wine from Jenny's cellar to the Pavilion and help lay tables the day before. A big thank you to Hannah and all the wonderful Mums from school who helped!

We are really pleased to announce that we raised the staggering sum of £26,000! This will be divided between the following local charities – Ditchling Village Hall, Old Meeting House, Friends of Ditchling, the Monday Group, Oldland Mill, Ditchling Horticultural Society, St. Margaret's School FPTA, Westmeston Jubilee Pathway Trust and Brighton Yoga Foundation.

We have also decided to make a contribution to the renovation of the Ditchling Pavilion, which will greatly improve this community facility.

Work has already started for our next event, so remember to put Saturday 12th June 2021 in your diary! If you would like to be added to our mailing list so that you will be first to hear when tickets go on sale, please contact me at [nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk](mailto:nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk)

Once again, a HUGE THANK YOU for making the 2019 Ditchling Charity ball such a success. Nikki Chapman & Jenny Adams (the Ditchling Ball committee)



# Clayton Windmills Probus Club is Looking for New Male Members.

**The word 'probus' is an abbreviation of the words PROfessional and BUSiness.**

However, membership is not restricted to these two groups, we include members from all occupations and the only requirement is each member is a retired or semi-retired individual who have had some measure of responsibility in any field of worthy endeavour.

The primary purpose of a Probus Club is to provide meetings and fellowship for persons who value opportunities to meet with others of similar interest, enjoy hearing addresses by guest speakers on topical subjects, and visiting places and organizations of specific appeal to members. Probus is non-political and non-sectarian.

## **What is the cost of joining a probus club?**

Nothing. There are no initiation charges and annual membership fees of existing clubs are minimal.

## **What are the main activities?**

We have two principal activities: We meet at Mid Sussex Golf Club on the third Thursday of the month for Lunch to which guests are welcome usually from 12.30pm to 3.00pm including a Guest speaker and questions. From time to time we also hold luncheon meetings and include spouses and guests. We also visit (between meetings) places and organizations of general interest. Each Probus club is autonomous.

There are Probus Clubs worldwide but there is no central organisation and each club sets its own rules. Probus magazine, published quarterly, is the only national publication enabling clubs to communicate, share experiences and ask for or impart advice.

If you are interested contact Brian Hudson:  
**01273842929 | [brianeva34@btinternet.com](mailto:brianeva34@btinternet.com)**



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# 1st Ditchling Scout Group

**Firstly I will apologise for the brevity of this report and the lack of pictures.**

What can I say, it's been a busy June. We have had to set up and run our biggest fundraiser of the year the London to Brighton Bike Ride Refreshment Stall, thanks to The Morleys for the loan of their lovely garden again and our AGM, thanks to Michael Alford for letting us use his camping field and to someone looking down on us and keeping the storm at bay until later!



and entered the Horticultural Show, a first for us.

Pretty much the highlight of the Summer takes place this weekend which is a whole group camp at Broadstone Warren. Summer has arrived and the planning is done so all that is left now is for everyone to have a great time. More about this in the next issue.

Normally I say things like all the sections have been out enjoying the wonderful summer weather but instead they've have been braving unseasonably cold NE winds whilst learning how-to Stand-Up Paddle board which needless to say made for some very cold Cubs.

Thanks much go to Fraser Strafford of Strafford Self-drive for the loan of a transit van to transport the kit.

The Scouts have been learning how to climb and the Beavers have grown their own plants



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# Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Sports Day 2019

**DSW Sports 2019 was a great success and everyone enjoyed a fantastic Bank Holiday weekend of community sports.**

On Sunday evening one hundred competitors took part in the three-village chase, meeting at the Rec in Ditchling and running to Streat Church and back. The weather held and we were all able to enjoy the beautiful Sussex countryside.



Many of these competitors returned to the Rec the following day for an action-packed afternoon of races, food and drink at the Village Sports Day. The local area is split into three teams, North Ditchling, South Ditchling and Streat and Westmeston. Competitors compete for individual points, family points and their area team.

The races included something for everyone from three-legged races, 200m and 1500m. Individual winners won vouchers to be redeemed at Ditchling Post Office and first place winners took home cups to keep until next year. Well done to North Ditchling who won the area team trophy.

This weekend of events was supported so well by the local community who turned up, spectated and participated with such enthusiasm and friendly competitive spirit. A huge thank you to the many volunteers who gave their time to line mark, marshal, judge, provide first aid, put up posters, enter data, sell programmes and provide commentary.

Also, thank you to the Pavilion Club for providing the bar, Ditchling St Margaret's FPTA for selling refreshments and the Ditchling Village Association for covering the costs of the event insurance.

This year we started a fund to restore our historic cup collection, some of which originate from the first Sports Day in 1935. We are incredibly grateful to the Turner Dumbrell Foundation for awarding us a generous grant to restore and repair many of our cups. This year we will be recalling the cups in early September to have them repaired in time for DSW Sports 2020.

A very small number of people run this event and we have been delighted that a few people have volunteered to help with DSW in the future. If you feel that this is something you would like to help with please get in touch. It is a lovely timeless village weekend and we appreciate all offers of help to keep this event going into the future.

**Hannah Tedman**  
[hannah@tedman.co.uk](mailto:hannah@tedman.co.uk)



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# Archers Sure-Fire Summer Success

**Ditchling Archers have been busy spreading the word this summer and have introduced dozens of newcomers to the sport they love.**



The Archery Big Weekend in May attracted nearly 80 would-be-archers to the club's range at Ditchling Recreation Ground. The idea of the annual event is to give newcomers a chance to put their shooting skills to the test in relaxed and fun surroundings.

Thanks to members posting about the Big Weekend on social media and advertising with local schools, it attracted people from far (Shoreham, East Grinstead and Ringmer) and near (Burgess Hill, Hassocks and Ditchling). Ditchling was one of 100 participating clubs across the UK and a dozen volunteers gave up their weekend to supervise both young and old as they picked up a bow for the first time and took aim.

Some of those taking part were obviously hooked and joined the Beginners' Course which the club ran over three Sundays in June. Thirteen enthusiasts learned the basics of archery from Ditchling's coaches and experienced archers.

Ditching Archery Club chairman, Peter Humphreys, said: "We have had a great May and June with the recent events run by our club members. We've introduced dozens of people to what is a fun but challenging sport and we're expecting quite a few of them to join us as new members."

It wasn't only newcomers the club has welcomed to the Recreation Ground this summer.

The annual Windsor fund-raising charity shoot at the beginning of June attracted some 50 experienced archers from a number of clubs across Sussex. (Windsor is the name of the round that was shot – nine dozen arrows at various distances.)

The day raised £300 for the St Peter & St. James Hospice & Continuing Care Centre.

For more information about Ditchling Archery Club visit:

[www.ditchlingac.org.uk](http://www.ditchlingac.org.uk)



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